

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re Application of:
K. Garza et al.

Serial No.: 09/960,445

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: Method of Kick Detection and Cuttings Bed
Buildup Detection Using a Drilling Tool

Group Art Unit: 2878

Examiner: C. Hannaher

Atty. Dkt. No.: 19.0302

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark
Office, Box No. (703) 872-9318.
Kevin McNaneyOct. 6, 2003
DateRESPONSE AND AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam::

In response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2003, please consider the following
comments:

Introductory Comments

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The independent claims have been rejected under section 103 based on Holenka, a
commonly assigned patent, in view of Mathis. Applicant submits herewith the following
comments in support of the belief the originally filed claims are novel and non-obvious in view
of the cited references. Independent claim 15, and associated dependent claims, has been
rejected under section 112, first paragraph, for failing to conform with the enablement
requirement. These claims have been amended to recited mud mixture in place of formation.
The oath or declaration has been objected to on the basis that it is defective, specifically failing
to list an inventor's middle initial. A new oath or declaration shall be submitted separate from
this Response and Amendment. Finally, the specification was objected to based metric symbol
preference. The Examiner's preferred symbol has been adopted by amendment.